

Applic. No. 10/008,241  
Amdt. dated March 12, 2004  
Reply to Office action of November 12, 2003

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-9, 11, and 12 are now in the application. Claims 1, 9, and 11 have been amended. Claim 12 has been added. Claim 5 has been cancelled.

In the second paragraph on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-4, 6-8, and 11 have been rejected as being obvious over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "admitted prior art") in view of Krasser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,491,460) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

It is appreciatively noted from page 3 of the Office action that claims 5 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended so as to include the subject matter of allowable claim 5. Therefore, claims 1 and 11 are allowable. Since claim 1 is allowable, dependent claims 2-4 and 6-8 are allowable as well.

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Allowable claim 9 has been amended so as to include the subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, claim 9 is now allowable.

New claim 12 includes the subject matter of claim 11 and the subject matter of allowable claim 9. Therefore claim 12 is allowable as well.

Since only allowable claims remain, the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$110 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Also enclosed herewith is the fee for one additional independent claim in the amount of \$86.

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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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For Applicant(s)

**Alfred K. Dassler**  
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AKD:cgm

March 12, 2004

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